THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TEH MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) based on data available with them in respect of a few loss making Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs) in 16 States has reported the average losses incurred by them during each of the three years, namely, 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 (latest available) as under:

	(*Rs. in lakhs*)
1986-87	52.03
1987-88	51.30
1988-89	68.10

In the case of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) the average loss of loss making RRBs for the last three years was as under:

	(*Rs. in lakhs*)
1988-89	41.45
1989-90	57.50
1990-91	' 61.45

The lossed incurred by the CCBs arise on account of various factors like low business turnover, high cost of management, low operating margins, lack of diversification of loan portfolio, failure to manage funds prudently and low recovery. CCBs are under the administrative control of the State Governments/Union Territories and are governed by the respective cooperative legislation of the concerned States/Union Territories. CCBs are inspected by the State Government and NABARD also conducts their statutory inspections and suggests remedial measures. The performance of the Regional Rural Banks is monitored by NABARD and the Government of India at regular intervals. The increase in establishment expenses on account of revised pay and allowances to RRB staff as per the National Industrial Tribunal Award has accentuated the viability problems of these institutions. The Government of India, NABARD and RBI are seized of the problems and appropriate measures are under consideration to improve their functioning and viability.

Pension to Army Personnel on Retirement before Completion of 15 Years' Service

*138. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pension is not granted to the army personnel who do not complete 15 years' service in the Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to grant pension or provide jobs in the Directorate General of Resettlement or in other civil services to such army personnel who are injured in war or on duty during the service period of 15 years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

1.1 As per the provisions of Pension Regulations for the Army (Part-I, 1961) the minimum qualifying service without weightage for earning a service pension is 15 years for Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks and 20 years for Non-

Combatants (Enrolled). The minimum qualifying service without weightage for admissibility of retiring pension is 20 years for service officers and 15 years for late entrants. However, except in the case of (i) an individual who is discharged at his own request; (ii) an individual who is eligible for special pension or gratuity; and (iii) an individual who is invalided with less than 15 years service, the deficiency in service for eligibility to service pension can be condoned by the competent authority upto six months.

2.1 *War Injury Pension*

Such Army personnel who are injured in war or any duty during military service are eligible for the following types of pensionary benefits.

2.2 *Personnel below officer rank (JCOS/ORs)*

Battle casualties and such other cases as are specially notified by the Government are entitled to War Injury Pension, which is admissible irrespective of the length of service. For 100% disability, the rate is equal to the reckonable emoluments last drawn on the date of invalidment (pay including classification pay, if any, last drawn by the individual). Where disability is less than 100%, the amount is proportionately reduced, subject to the condition that the minimum amount admissible is not less than 80% of the reckonable emoluments last drawn, irrespective of the degree of disability at the time of invalidment or at any subsequent re-assessment stage.

2.3 *Service Officers*

For Service Officers, War Injury Pension for 100% disability is equal to the reckonable emoluments last drawn on the date of invalidment (pay plus Non practising Allowance (for Doctors only) and rank pay, if any). Where disability is less than 100%, the amount of War Injury Pension is reduced proportionately, subject to the condition that the minimum amount admissible is not less than 60% of the reckonable emoluments last drawn on the date of invalidment, irrespective of the degree of disability at the time of invalidment or at any subsequent re-assessment state.

2.4 *Retirement Gratuity*

In addition to the War Injury Pension, Service Officers/Personnel below Officer rank are entitled to Retirement Gratuity equal to one fourth of the reckonable emoluments for each completed six monthly period of qualifying service, counting service upto the date on which he would have normally retired in that rank plus weightage of 5 years subject to maximum qualifying service of 33 years including weightage. This, however, is subject to a maximum of 161/2% times three reckonable emoluments and an upper ceiling of Rupees one lakh. Incalculating the length of qualifying service, fraction of a year equal to 3 months and above but less than 6 months shall be treated as a completed half year and reckoned as qualifying service.

2.5 *Disability Pension*

Disability pension is admissible to

an Army personnel who is invalided out of service on account of a disability in peace time irrespective of length of service or who is found to be suffering from a disability at the time of retirement, which is attributable to or aggravated by military service and is assessed at 20% or over by the competent authority. This has two elements viz: a service element and a disability element. For personnel below officer rank the service element of the Disability pension is equal to the Service pension for the qualifying service rendered, till the date of invalidment. This will be applicable to individuals with 15 years or more of qualifying service (20 years of NCs(E). But in no case the service element shall be less than 2/3rd of the minimum service pension admissible to the rank/pay group. Presently, the rates of disability element for 100% disability are Rs. 550/- p.m. for Junior Commissioned Officers and Rs. 450/- p.m. for Other Ranks/NCs(E). For less than 100% but not less than 20%, the rate is proportionately reduced.

2.6 In the case of officers, the rate of disability element for, 100% disability is presently Rs. 750/- p.m. The amount of service element is equal to the retiring pension calculated on the basis of the actual service rendered by an officer plus the full weightage appropriate to the rank held at the time of invalidment, irrespective of the length of service. Retiring pension in respect of the officer is calculated at 50% of the average emoluments reckonable for pension (average of the basis pay, Non-Practising Allowance (NPA) and rank pay, if any, drawn by the officer during the last 10 months of his service). The amount so determined shall be the retiring pension for 33 years of reckonable qualifying service. For lesser years of qualifying service, this amount will be proportionately reduced.

Period of grant of disability pension when the invaliding disability is incapable of Improvement

2.7 If the disability is accepted as attributable to or aggravated by military service and is certified on the basis of an Invaliding or a Re-survey Medical Board to be incapable of improvement, disability pension may be granted for a period of 10 years in the first instance. During this period, the pensioner will have a right to claim re-assessment of his pension on the basis of aggravation, if any. Where pension is modified as a result of re-assessment, the pension may again be granted for a period of 10 years from the date of the revised award, provided the disability is still regarded as incapable of improvement. Each successive assessment, at higher or lower rate, will be for a 10 year period during which the pensioner will be given an opportunity to have his pension reassessed on the basis of further aggravation.

2.8 When the percentage of disablement has remained unmodified for a period of 10 years, the pensioner shall be brought before a Resurvey Medical Board and in the event of the disability still being regarded by the pension sanctioning authority as incapable of improvement, his pension may be sanctioned for life.

Thereafter, no revision of pension will be admissible.

2.9 In cases, where the invaliding disability is loss of iimb(s), total loss of sight, loss of one eye, amputation, etc, and when the question of improvement/worsening of physical condition does not arise, the award will be sanctioned for life.

Period of grant of disability pension when the invaliding disability is capable of improvement

2.10 Where the disability whether attributable to or aggravated by military service of an individual is considered as capable of change (improve or deteriorate), the period of the first award calculated with reference to the date of medical board will be in the range of one to five years. The actual period of award will, however, be decided by the Medical Board, having due regard to the circumstances/conditions of each case. The period of the award or resurvey will also be for a period ranging from one to five years and will be decided after taking into account the circumstances of each case.

2.11 *Invalid Pension*

Invalid pension is admissible to an individual who is invalided out of service with a disability neither attributable to nor aggravated by military service, if the service actually rendered is 10 years or more. It is equal to the service element of disability pension that would have been admissible had the causes been attributable to or aggravbated by service. If the service actually rendered is less than 10 years, invalid gratuity will be at half a month's reckonable emoluments (pay including classification pay, if any last drawn by the individual) for each six monthly period of service.

3.1 *Provision of Employment*

As regards provision of jobs to such Army Personnel, the position is explain hereunder.

3.2 For the purpose of appointment to Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts in the Central Government, filled through Employment Exchange, the disabled ex-Servicemen, whether disabled during war or in peace time but whose disability is attributable to military service, are accorded Priority-I alongwith retrenched employees of the Government. They are also eligible for relaxation in age and educational qualifications. Concessions are also being given by the Central PSUS/Nationalised Banks to such persons for employment in their organisations. Certain State Governments also have their own schemes for the rehabilitation of disabled ex-Servicemen.

3.3 For appointment of disabled ex-Servicemen to Group A and Group B posts:-

(a) otherwise than through competitive examinations

conducted by the UPSC, their cases will be considered by the UPSC provided they possess the requisite qualifications and experience and do not exceed 45 years of the age (50 years in the case of disabled ex-Servicemen belonging to SC/ST). They will be accorded first priority provided they are found suitable by the Commission;

(b) through competitive examinations held by the UPSC provided they are educationally qualified. They are eligible for age concession up to 3 years (upto 8 years in the case of SC/ST).

3.4 As regards medical standards, the orders provide that a certificate of fitness granted by the Demobilisation Medical Board would be considered adequate for the purpose of employment of such personnel in Group 'A' to Group 'D' posts.

3.5 In respect of IPKF casualties, as a special dispensation, Government have issued 'guidelines' to various Central Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings to provide priority for employment to be given to disabled personnel for employment under Government over other normal cases of ex-Servicemen, against vacancies reserved for ex-Servicemen.

[*English*]

Free Trade Zone at Visakapatnam

*139. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for commissioning of the Free Trade Zone at Visakhapatnam;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) whether the progress in developing the Free Trade Zone is slow;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). The basic internal infrastructure of the Zone is likely to be completed in the next financial year.

Development works could only be initiated after a compact block of land was made available in March, 1991. A quicker pace of development would be possible with the provision of additional funds this year. The progress achieved so far is as under:-

1. Land for the Zone has ben acquired and the Zone Administration has taken possession of 360.51 acres of land.

2. The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) has been appointed as the Model Agency for development of infrastructure inside the Zone. M/s. APIIC have prepared detailed designs of buildings and utilities and